

Sunnyvale Bicycle Times



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Volume II Edition I

CARS AND BIKES – SAME ROAD / SAME RULES / SAME RIGHTS / SAME RESPONSIBILITIES

Long Range Bike Improvement Program In Progress

The City is preparing a long-range program to prioritize bikeway improvements Citywide. Building on the results of last year's Bicycle Opportunities Study, this capital improvement program will allocate financial and other resources to study and construct bike lane projects on all of the City's major streets far into the future. The study is scheduled for completion in September 2000.

Committee Meets Monthly

The Sunnyvale Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meets monthly on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m., in the City Hall West Conference Room, 456 W. Olive Avenue. Citizens are invited and encouraged to attend.

Join the Committee

The City will be accepting applications from the public for three committee member openings with the Sunnyvale Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee. The deadline for applications is **May 19, 2000**. Those interested should contact Volunteer Services at (408) 730-7533.



City Constructs New Bike Lanes

Additional Projects Underway

Sunnyvale passed a historic milestone in the Fall of 1999 when new bike lanes were constructed on four City streets. These facilities are the first new bike lane segments in Sunnyvale since the late 1970's. The new lanes are on segments of Maude Avenue, Arques Avenue, Oakmead Parkway, and Hollenbeck Ave

The City's recently completed citywide examination of bike lane needs, dubbed the Bicycle Opportunities Study, was the catalyst for the projects. Several projects were identified in the study that required simply roadway striping changes to create bike lanes. "Bikeway planning has taken a tremendous leap forward with completion of the (Bicycle Opportunities) Study," says City Public Works Director Marvin A. Rose.

Additionally, the City has applied for and received a number of fed-

eral, state and regional grants to construct additional bike lanes. Nearly \$ 700,000 is budgeted or has been spent for bike lane projects as a result of this revenue. Because of the City's

planning effort, less than \$60,000 of City funds was required to leverage the outside funds.

Residents and commuters can anticipate seeing new bike lanes on roadways such as Caribbean Drive, Arques

Avenue, Kifer Road, Borregas Avenue, Stewart Drive, Wolfe Road and Mary Avenue within the next two years. Projects for these streets and others are currently being designed.

Traffic Engineer Dennis Ng commented on the City's bike lane strategy. "City policy encourages increasing bicycle use. Bike lanes are a vital and effective tool for promoting bicycling."



City to Revise Bike Map

The City will soon update the City's Bicycle Map. Call (408) 730-7415 to have your name added to the list for a new map when available.



Free Bicycle Parking Program Needs Participants

The City has been conducting an ongoing Bicycle Parking Incentive Program directed at Sunnyvale retail businesses for the past year. In this program, the City will provide to the business a free bicycle parking rack. Businesses will only have

to provide space and have the rack installed.

Participation and interest in the program has been low. City Senior Transportation Planner Jack Witthaus commented, "We would really like the community to get behind this program. I'm a little surprised, free stuff usually

Bay Trail Update

The City continues to plan and expand the Sunnyvale segment of the Bay Trail. Last year, over a mile of new trail was opened to the public. In February 2000, Yahoo! granted the City future trail access rights near Mathilda Avenue and Caribbean Drive. Most recently, the City and Lockheed Martin reached agreement on access to an additional segment stretching about 1/3 of a mile to the west of the current end of trail. This trail segment could be open to public use within a year.

Report Those Potholes!

Bicyclists encountering potholes, broken glass, malfunctioning traffic signals and other hazards in Sunnyvale can report them to the City's Traffic Engineering Division. Call (408) 730-7415, or email at bac@ci.sunnyvale.ca.us.

Bike to Work Week/Day

Bike to Work Week happens every year in May. This year's event will be **May 15-19**. The City will be participating in Bike to Work Day on May 16 by setting up and operating three Energizer Stations for bicyclists at locations around the City. The three locations are at the northeast corner of Fremont and Wolfe, the northwest corner of Mary and Maude on Trimble Navigation's front patio, and at the northwest corner of Sunnyvale and Evelyn in the parking lot. There will be drinks, snacks, and free items for people bicycling to work. The Energizer Stations will be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

creates quite an incentive. I hope that residents and cyclists will urge business owners to participate in this program." Businesses that are interested in participating can contact Jack Witthaus at (408) 730-7330 for more information.

Fantastic Factoids II

- Air pollution kills more than 23,000 Americans a year (source: EPA)
- Worldwide, the number of bicycles outnumber cars 2 to 1
- The average bicycle commute distance in the United States is 2.1. miles.
- In the Bay Area, more people commute by bicycle than use light rail, Caltrain, vanpools, ferry boats, or the Altamont Commuter Express.
- The risk of having a collision when riding a bicycle on the sidewalk has been shown to be 3 times greater than riding in a signed or striped bike lane.



- A Chicago study found that installing bicycle parking at transit stations was 300 times more cost effective in reducing pollution than automobile park and ride development.
- Illegal, careless, and inappropriate bicyclist behavior (disobedience of the rules of the road) has been blamed for over 50% of all car-bicycle accidents.

Bikes Belong — Share the Road

Some drivers have a hard time accepting bicyclists. But it is important to understand that it is legal for cyclists and motorists to share the same road. They have the same rights, the same rules, and the same responsibilities. Sunnyvale Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Chair Barney Burke points out, “People have rights and responsibilities — not cars versus bikes.”

Think of bicycles as human powered cars. Because of the speed they move, it is safest for them to ride in the road, in the same direction as motor vehicle traffic (the excep-

LOCAL BICYCLIST PROTESTS OIL PRICE INCREASE

“I’m mad as hell, and I won’t take it anymore” vows eccentric pedaler.

Angered by the recent precipitous rise in oil prices, longtime Sunnyvale cyclist Kevin Jackson has decided to fight back. “This is outrageous” he declares. “The cost of keeping my bike lubricated has more than doubled, to almost **THREE DOLLARS** a year!” His plan: “I’m starting an internet campaign for a one-day oil boycott. On April first, I’m asking all cyclists to buy no oil whatsoever — no WD-40, no TriFlo, no 3-in-1, nothing! That should bring OPEC to its knees!!!”

But doesn’t Jackson accept part of the responsibility for

his plight, for choosing an oil-guzzling all-terrain bike just to ride around town? “No way,” he says. “It’s my right as an American to buy anything that flashy TV ads promise will be fun and make me look cool, without worrying about the consequences.

Jackson bristled at the suggestion that he’s being rather silly because his concerns about the oil situation are trivial compared to those of motorists. “Are you kidding?” he asks. “I worry about the gas crisis as much as anybody. When panic sets in and the gas lines return, what do you

think all those drivers will be doing as they slowly inch their way toward the pumps? Blocking the bike lanes, that’s what!”

Editors Note: As this story goes to press, crude oil prices have dropped from \$30 to \$25 per barrel. US Energy Secretary Bill Richardson has so far made no public comment on whether this decline can be entirely attributed to the economic pressure from the bicyclists’ oil boycott. Consequently, none of the statements made in the above article can be independently verified.”

Sunnyvale Area Trails Abound

The cities of Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Santa Clara, San Jose, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) have taken dramatic steps to improve the recreation trail system in the north Santa Clara Valley area recently. In the past four years, four major new trails or trail segments have opened, and one trail has been upgraded with new pavement, landscaping, and lighting. Additional pending trail improvement projects will further increase recreational bicycling and walking opportunities in the upcoming years.

Sunnyvale, Caltrans, and San Jose have combined to complete a Bay

Trail segment that links north Sunnyvale with Alviso, an almost five mile long trail network. Access to levees around the marshes and salt ponds has also been improved.

Santa Clara has created a San Tomas Aquino Creek Trail that winds from a Bay Trail connection through the Great America area. Santa Clara intends to continue to upgrade this trail and expand trail opportunities throughout the City in the future.

In the last year, Mountain View extended its Stevens Creek Trail from Middlefield Road to Landels School. This trail extension fea-

tures an impressive turquoise-painted bridge that vaults several hundred feet over Central Expressway, the Caltrain railroad tracks, and Evelyn Avenue.

Finally, in 1996, Sunnyvale began to incrementally improve the Hetch Hetchy trail through north Sunnyvale by completing improvements in and around Fairwood Park. The parkway expansion increased exponentially in 1999 with the approval of projects to complete landscaping, re-paving, and lighting of the entire trail. Although some project delays have occurred, the City anticipates completion of the upgraded Hetch Hetchy parkway by 2001.

A crowning achievement for trail development was the realization of federal funding for the City of Sunnyvale and Santa Clara to complete a vital new link between the Hetch Hetchy trail and the Bay Trail along Calabazas Creek. The Calabazas Creek Trail will bridge Calabazas Creek at the junction of the Hetch Hetchy path, and provide access along the levees and under the roadways north of Route 101 all the way to Baylands Park and the Bay Trail.

For more information on recreation trail opportunities in and around Sunnyvale, contact the Sunnyvale Department of Parks and Recreation at 730-7506 or for Bay Trail information, call 730-7311.

